

RESOURCES for AGING
December 27, 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 17)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on the e-newsletter distribution list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS
AAA-3B Executive Director Dies in Traffic Accident

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of **Angela Wiseley** who passed away early Tuesday, **December 27**, in an auto accident near Macon, GA.

She was appointed Executive Director of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 3B in **Battle Creek** on August 1. The AAA serves Barry and Calhoun counties. She previously worked at AAA-3B from 1996 to 1999, and most recently served as Senior Services Manager for Calhoun County before becoming the AAA-3B Executive Director.

A memorial fund in her name has been established at the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Contributions may be sent to the foundation at 34 W. Jackson Street in **Battle Creek**, 49017. For more information, call **Karla Fales** at the AAA (269/966-2450).

WHCoA Delegates Select 50 Resolutions and the Top 10

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) was held **December 11-14** in **Washington, DC**. It was the fifth WHCoA in history. The other four met in 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1995 to make recommendations to the President and Congress to help guide national aging policies for the next decade and beyond.

The 2005 WHCoA focused on the aging of today and tomorrow, including 78 million baby boomers who will turn age 60 next month. The WHCoA delegates selected 50 unranked resolutions. Then they met in working groups to select the top 10 resolutions, and to discuss strategies for implementing them. The top 10 resolutions as voted by the delegates are:

- (1) Reauthorize the Older Americans Act within the first six months following the 2005 WHCoA.
- (2) Develop a coordinated, comprehensive long-term care strategy by supporting

public and private sector initiatives that address financing, choice, quality, service delivery, and the paid and unpaid workforce.

- (3) Ensure that older Americans have transportation options to retain their mobility and independence.
- (4) Strengthen and improve the Medicaid Program for seniors.
- (5) Strengthen and improve the Medicaid Program.
- (6) Support geriatric education and training for all healthcare professionals, paraprofessionals, health profession students and direct care workers.
- (7) Promote innovative models of non-institutional long-term care.
- (8) Improve recognition, assessment and treatment of mental health illness and depression among older Americans.
- (9) Attain adequate numbers of healthcare personnel in all professions who are skilled, culturally competent, and specialized in geriatrics.
- (10) Improve state and local based integrated delivery systems to meet 21st century needs of seniors.

The other 40 (unranked) resolutions are:

- (1) Provide financial and other economic incentives and policy changes to encourage and facilitate increased retirements.
- (2) Establish principles to strengthen social security.
- (3) Foster innovations in financing long-term care services to increase options available to caregivers.
- (4) Strengthen law enforcement efforts at the federal, state and local level to investigate and prosecute cases of elder financial crime.
- (5) Modernize the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program.
- (6) Strengthen the Social Security Disability Insurance Program.
- (7) Remove barriers to the retention and hiring of older workers, including age discrimination.
- (8) Promote incentives for older workers to continue working and improve employment training and retraining programs to better serve older workers.
- (9) Expand opportunities for developing innovative housing designs for seniors' needs.
- (10) Encourage redesign of senior centers for broad appeal and community participation.
- (11) Encourage community designs to promote livable communities that enable aging in place.
- (12) Create a national strategy for promoting elder justice through the prevention and prosecution of elder abuse.
- (13) Support older drivers to retain mobility and independence through strategies to continue safe driving.
- (14) Enhance the availability of housing for older Americans.
- (15) Enhance the affordability of housing for older Americans.
- (16) Encourage the development of a coordinated federal, state and local emergency response plan for seniors in the event of public health emergencies or disasters.
- (17) Support older adult caregivers raising their relatives' children.
- (18) Promote economic development policies that respond to the unique needs of rural seniors.
- (19) Promote enrollment of seniors into the Medicare Prescription Drug Program.
- (20) Apply evidence based research to the delivery of health and social services where appropriate.
- (21) Evaluate payment and coordination policies in the geriatric healthcare continuum

- to ensure continuity of care.
- (22) Promote the importance of nutrition in health promotion and disease prevention and management.
 - (23) Improve the health and quality of life of older Americans through disease management and chronic care coordination.
 - (24) Prevent disease and promote healthier lifestyles through educating providers and consumers on consumer healthcare.
 - (25) Improve health decision-making through promotion of health education, health literacy and cultural competency.
 - (26) Ensure appropriate care for seniors with disabilities.
 - (27) Reduce healthcare disparities among minorities by developing strategies to prevent disease, promote health, and deliver appropriate care and wellness.
 - (28) Promote innovative evidence-based and practice-based medical and aging research.
 - (29) Encourage appropriate sharing of healthcare information across multiple management systems.
 - (30) Ensure appropriate recognition and care for veterans across all healthcare settings.
 - (31) Educate Americans on End of Life issues.
 - (32) Improve access to care for older adults living in rural areas.
 - (33) Improve patient advocacy to assist patients in and across all care settings.
 - (34) Develop a national strategy for promoting new and meaningful volunteer activities and civic engagements for current and future seniors.
 - (35) Reauthorize the National and Community Service Act to expand opportunities for volunteer and civic engagement activities.
 - (36) Promote the integration of health and aging services to improve access and quality of care for older Americans.
 - (37) Develop incentives to encourage the expansion of appropriate use of health information technology.
 - (38) Develop a national strategy for supporting informal caregivers of seniors to enable adequate quality and supply of services.
 - (39) Implement a strategy and plan for accountability for sustain the momentum, public visibility, and oversight of the implementation of 2005 WHCoA resolutions.
 - (40) Review alignment of government programs that deliver services to older Americans.

For more information, go to www.whcoa.gov, or call 301/443-2394 or 202/414-0779.

MDCH Issues RFP for SPEs

Long-term care (LTC) is a growing concern. It not only affects senior adults with chronic health problems, it also affects their families who arrange for their care and the payment of that care.

Families spend an enormous amount of time delving through the bureaucratic maze of government regulations, health insurance guidelines, and mounds of paperwork to identify and obtain important LTC health services for their parents and grandparents.

To meet this need for a responsive, consumer-focused system that provides choices for LTC services and simplifies access to them, Michigan is developing a single point of entry (SPE) system. It will allow one-stop shopping for obtaining information about available options, alternatives and choices for LTC services.

The executive order signed by **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** not only created the Office of LTC within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and the appointment of a consumer advisory council to guide and advocate for LTC reform, it also committed the state to create at least three SPE pilot programs in Michigan.

MDCH recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for at least three SPEs. Contract recipients are expected to be announced by mid-April. At least one SPE must be in an urban area, and at least one must be in a rural area.

Applicants will need to demonstrate strong support from Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) county offices, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and disability organizations. It is recommended that applicants obtain letters of support from public officials and key stakeholders. In addition, applicants are encouraged to be creative and innovative, and to design a SPE pilot model that is adapted to meet the needs of their communities.

A bidders meeting was held December 5 to address questions. A response to questions document and the RFP can be downloaded from the MDCH website (www.michigan.gov/mdch). The deadline for proposals is **February 17, 2006**.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS
Michigan Task Force on Elder Abuse

The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **January 5, 2006** at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbott Road in **East Lansing**. For more information, call **Wendi Middleton** at OSA (517/373-8230) or e-mail her at middletonw@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **January 10, 2006** in Room 3B above OSA at 7109 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **January 20, 2006** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. **February 9, 2006** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

OSA State Plan Public Input Sessions

The next state plan public input session will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 17, 2006** at ACCESS in **Dearborn**.

To date, OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) have conducted two public input sessions (**October 21** at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant** and **November 18** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**) and will conduct four more sessions to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens.

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public input sessions to express their opinions to policy makers.

The four more input sessions will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

March 17, 2006 at ACCESS in **Dearborn**

March 21, 2006 at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**

March 29, 2006 at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**

May 19, 2006 at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

Verbal comments made by interested individuals at the public input sessions are welcome. Written comments also may be submitted by **May 20, 2006** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Pain Management for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments & Falls and Fall Prevention, two half-day training sessions (morning and afternoon) sponsored by the Gerontology Network **January 6, 2006** at the Gratiot County Commission on Aging in **Ithaca**. For more information or to register, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Cultural Competence, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **January 7, 2006** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Caring for Your Aging Parents – Empowering the Sandwich Generation, a free Caring Partners Workshop sponsored by the Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program with support from the Jewish Women's Foundation **January 8, 2006** at Congregation B'nai Moshe in **West Bloomfield**. For more information, call 248/233-4000.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **January 10, 2006** at the Lakeview Lutheran Manor in **Cadillac**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

2006 Michigan Accord: Health Care in the 21st Century – Rediscovering the Art of Caring, featuring keynoter William Thomas, founder of the Eden Alternative, and sponsored by MPRO **January 11, 2006** at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in **Bath**. For more information, go to www.mpro.org/michiganaccord or call 248/465-7332.

Understanding Behaviors, a free training session sponsored by the Macomb County Department of Senior Citizen Services as part of its Community Education Series **January 12, 2006** at the Southeast Health Center in **St. Clair Shores**. For more information or to register, call 586/466-6817 or e-mail to joy.roark@macombcountymi.gov.

Almost Home, the broadcast premiere of a feature-length film, a documentary shot on location in a nursing home and produced by 371 Productions and Wisconsin Public Television to be aired **January 31, 2006** on your local public television station. For more information, go to www.almosthomedoc.org.

The 2006 International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, sponsored by the University of Florida and the American Occupational Therapy Association **February 1-5, 2006** at the Hilton St. Petersburg in **St. Petersburg, FL**. For more information, go to <https://secure.php.ufl.edu/icadi/index.php> or call 352/273-6135.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Black Male Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **February 6, 2006** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **February 7, 2006** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Moving a Loved One (When and How to Move a Loved One), a free training session sponsored by the Macomb County Department of Senior Citizen Services as part of its Community Education Series **February 9, 2006** at the Southeast Health Center in **St. Clair Shores**. For more information or to register, call 586/466-6817 or e-mail to joy.roark@macombcountymi.gov.

32nd Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, entitled "Outcomes of Gerontological and Geriatric Education" and sponsored by The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) **February 9-12, 2006** at the Westin Indianapolis in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information, go to www.aghe.org or call 202/289-9806.

You Can't do it All -- How to be an Effective Caregiver, a free Caring Partners Workshop sponsored by the Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program with support from the Jewish Women's Foundation **February 12, 2006** at Young Israel of Southfield in **Southfield**. For more information, call 248/233-4000.

Partnering with Your Doctor, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Michigan Chapter, Upper Peninsula Region **February 14, 2006** at the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Office in **Manistique**. For more information, call toll-free 800/272-3900 or 906/228-3910.

Grief and Loss, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **February 18, 2006** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

10th Annual Play Therapy Conference, sponsored by Life Guidance Services, a nonprofit behavioral health organization, **February 24-25, 2006** at the Radisson Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 616/774-9548, ext. 520.

11th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety Planning of the Michigan Department of Transportation (M-DOT) **February 28-March 1, 2006** at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/333-5325.

Native Women & Men's Wellness V Conference, a health promotion conference sponsored by the University of Oklahoma OUTREACH **March 5-9, 2006** at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in **San Diego, CA**. For more information, go to www.hpp.ou.edu or call 405/325-1316.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Spanish Speaking Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **March 6, 2006** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **March 7, 2006** at the Medilodge Nursing Home in **Sterling**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Trainers' Creativity Day Camp 2006, a two-day training experience for training coordinators sponsored by the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **March 7-8, 2006** at the Hillton Inn in **Southfield**, **March 8-9, 2006** at the **Clarion Hotel Convention Center** in **Lansing**, and **March 9-10** at the Radisson Hotel North in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/258-7246 or go to www.nationalseminarstraining.com.

Ingham County Kinship Care Service Provider's Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **March 16, 2006** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Non-Alzheimer's Primary Degenerative Dementias & Primary Degenerative Dementias Current Research, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **March 17, 2006** at the DeVos Family Center for Scouting in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Legal Issues and Eldercare, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **March 18, 2006** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training sponsored by the Gerontology

Network **March 31, 2006** at Shelby Adult Education in **Shelby**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Refugee Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **April 3, 2006** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **April 4, 2006** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Losing Your World, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 14, 2006** at Above & Beyond in **Norton Shores**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Kent County Kinship Legal and Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 20, 2006** at the Eastbrook Homes Conference Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Gay and Lesbian Issues, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **April 22, 2006** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Wayne County Kinship Legal and Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 26, 2006** at the William Costick Center in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 28, 2006** at Michigan Works at Michigan Works in **Reed City**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **May 2, 2006** at the Medilodge in **Hillman**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Ingham County Kinship Caregivers Speak-Out Meeting with State Legislators interested in kinship issues, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 12, 2006** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Losing Your World, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **May 19, 2006** at the Montcalm County Commission on Aging in **Stanton**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Grant Writing Made Simple, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 25, 2006** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

UP Kinship Service Provider's Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 1, 2006** at the Northern Michigan University (NMU) Don Bottum University Center in **Marquette**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 9, 2006** at Evergreen Commons in **Holland**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Managing Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 16, 2006** at the Osceola State Bank in **Baldwin**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Identifying Community Resources, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 23, 2006** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled "Learning, Laughing and Caring" sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2006** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

Michigan Nonprofit Super Conference 2006, entitled "New Directions in Nonprofit Excellence, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association **May 2-3, 2006** at the Sheraton Detroit Novi in **Novi**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Partnering in Care: The Seventh Dr. Richard Seyfarth Schreiber Memorial Conference, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **May 16, 2006** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in **Kalamazoo**. For more information go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call 269/387-4174.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Running for Office Training, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **January 20-21, 2006** at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr or call 517/373-2884.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Understanding Alzheimer's, an orientation program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **December 14** at the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

The 2006 Michigan Accord, a program about the dynamic impact that cultural change has on health care workers and consumers sponsored by the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the State of Michigan (MPRO) and Bringing the Eden Alternative to Michigan (BEAM) **January 11, 2006** at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in **Bath**. For more information, go to www.mpro.org/michiganaccord or call [248/465-7332](tel:2484657332). See also the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Guardianship Mediation Training, sponsored by the Stetson University College of Law **January 9-14, 2006** at the College of Law in **Gulfport, FL**. For more information, go to www.law.stetson.edu/cle or call [813/228-0226](tel:8132280226).

Call for Presenters: 2006 National Aging and Disability I&R/A Symposium, sponsored by the National Aging I&R Support Center and the National State Units on Aging (NASUA) to be held in conjunction with the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRA) Training and Education Conference June 4-7 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee in **Milwaukee, WI**. Priority will be given to those who propose sessions by **January 13, 2006**. For more information go to www.nasua.org/informationandreferral, call 202/898-2578 or e-mail to glink@nasua.org.

Call for Abstracts: Annual Research Meeting 2006 (the premier forum for health services research), sponsored by Academy Health June 25-27, 2006 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in **Seattle, WA**. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **January 13, 2006**. For more information, go to www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts.

Call for Presentations: The Third Eden Alternative International Conference, entitled "The Many Faces of Eden" sponsored by The Eden Alternative and Eden of OZ (Australia and New Zealand) June 7-9, 2006 at the Cairns International Hotel in **Cairns, Queensland, Australia**. The deadline for submitting proposals is **January 15, 2006**. For more information, go to www.edenalt.com or call 512/245-8234.

Spiritual Assessment, an all-day seminar sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes to explain how spiritual assessment can be used as a tool and why it is needed **January 19, 2006** at the Claremont Manor Retirement Community in **Claremont, CA** and **January 20, 2006** at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in **Chula Vista, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Health Action 2006 Conference, sponsored by Families USA **January 26-28, 2006** at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.familiesusa.org, call 202/628-3030 or e-mail to mdelaney@familiesusa.org.

World Parkinson Congress, sponsored by the World Parkinson Congress and the

National Institutes of Health **February 22-26, 2006** at the Washington Convention Center in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.worldpdcongress.org or call 972/395-1119.

2006 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 27-28, 2006** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Invest in Aging: Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" and co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19, 2006** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call 800/537-9728, ext. 9675.

Tools for Spiritual Care, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29, 2006** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30, 2006** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Sixth Annual National Aging and Law Conference, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and others, **April 19-23, 2006** at the Double Tree Hotel in **Arlington, VA**. For more information, go to www.aarp.org/nltp or call 202/434-2197.

30th Annual Summer School of Gerontology, sponsored by the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging **August 20-25, 2006** to provide education and training for professionals who work with the aging population and others interested in aging issues at Springmaid Beach, **Myrtle Beach, SC**. The lodging and meal costs of course presenters, as well as limited travel costs will be covered. For more information, call 803/734-9878 or e-mail to halljen@aging.sc.gov.

FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS & RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

How to Excel at Managing and Supervising People, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 21-22, 2006** in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 18, 2006** in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Fundamentals of Successful Project Management, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 27-28, 2006** in **Ann Arbor**; and **March 1-2, 2006** in **Troy**. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

How to Become a Better Communicator, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 24, 2006** in Dearborn; **January 25, 2006** in Farmington Hills; **February 23, 2006** in Ann Arbor; **March 16, 2006** in Kalamazoo; and **February 24, 2006** in Troy. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call 800/873-7545.

Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 9, 2006** in Grand Rapids; **January 10, 2006** in Dearborn; **January 11, 2006** in Farmington Hills; **January 12, 2006** in Ann Arbor; **January 13** in Flint; **February 6** in Saginaw; **February 7, 2006** in Jackson; **March 22, 2006** in Lansing; **March 23, 2006** in Traverse City; and **March 24, 2006** in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

How to Build Powerful Powerpoint Presentations, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 17, 2006** in Farmington Hills; **January 18, 2006** in Dearborn; **January 19, 2006** in Grand Rapids; **February 13, 2006** in Troy; **February 14, 2006** in Ann Arbor; and **March 24, 2006** in Kalamazoo. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Excelling as a Highly Effective Team Leader, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 23-24, 2006** in Saginaw and **January 25-26, 2006** in Lansing. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Coaching and Teambuilding Skills for Managers and Supervisors, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 16, 2006** in Traverse City; **March 20, 2006** in Grand Rapids; **March 21, 2006** in Flint; **March 22, 2006** in Troy; and **March 23, 2006** in Ann Arbor. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Customer Service, a conference on the techniques and skills for customer service sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 22, 2006** at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Business (and Agency) Writing and Grammar Skills Made Easy and Fun, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 28-March 1, 2006** in Farmington Hills; **March 2-3, 2006** in Dearborn; and **March 9-10, 2006** in Flint. For more information, to www.skillpath.com or call 800/873-7545.

Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **March 7, 2006** in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Discovering the Secrets of Microsoft Access, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **March 7-9, 2006** in Grand Rapids. For more information, go to [skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

FEDERAL REGISTER
(November 21-December 23)

CMS Issues Final Rule for Hospice Care

See the Federal Register dated **November 22** (Vol. 70, No. 224). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Rules, Medicare.” This final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **January 23, 2006**, revises existing regulations that govern coverage and payment for hospice care under the Medicare program. Hospice care means a comprehensive set of services to provide the physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and emotional needs of a terminally ill patient and family members or both as denoted in a specific patient plan of care. The intent of this final rule is to expand the hospice benefit periods, improve documentation requirements to support certification and re-certification of terminal illness, provide guidance on hospice admission procedures, clarify discharge procedures, update coverage and payment requirements, and address the changing needs of beneficiaries, suppliers and the Medicare program. For more information, call 410/786-5650.

HHS Issues Special Advisory Bulletin on Patient Assistance Programs

See the Federal Register dated **November 22** (Vol. 70, No. 225). Go to “Inspector General Office, Health and Human Services Department” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is a Special Advisory Bulletin to address patient assistance programs for Medicare Part D enrollees. Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) have long provided important safety net assistance to patients of limited means who do not have insurance coverage for drugs. They typically serve patients with chronic illnesses and high drug costs. This Special Advisory Bulletin focuses on the application of the federal anti-kickback statute, as well as arrangements that involve pharmaceutical manufacturers directly or indirectly subsidizing Part D cost-sharing amounts. Given the importance of ensuring continued access to drugs for beneficiaries of limited means, and the expedited time frame for implementation of the Part D benefit, this Special Advisory Bulletin is being issued to identify potentially abusive patient assistance program structures, as well as methods of providing assistance that mitigates the potential for fraud and abuse. For more information, call 202/619-0335.

Access Board Issues Draft Guidelines for Accessibility in Public Right of Way

See the Federal Register dated **November 23** (Vol. 70, No. 226). Go to “Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board” and see “Rules.” This notice from the Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board (Access Board) announces the availability of draft guidelines for public review. They address accessibility in public rights of way (sidewalks, street crossings and other related pedestrian facilities). The purpose of this notice is to facilitate the gathering of additional information for the regulatory assessment, and the preparation of technical assistance materials to accompany a future involving accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered public right of way covered by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990, and the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. The draft guidelines are available on the Board’s website (www.access-board.gov/prowac/commrept/index.htm) and in various formats (cassette tape, Braille, large print and ASCII disk). For more information, call 202/272-0025 or e-mail to windley@access-board.gov.

Corporation Requests Comments Regarding State Service Plans

See the Federal Register dated **November 25** (Vol. 70, No. 226). Go to “Corporation for National and Community Service” and see “Notices [E5-6523].” This notice from the

Corporation for National and Community Service solicits public comments concerning its proposed collection of State Service Plans from State Commissions. These plans are submitted By State Commissions as required by statute. The plans are elicited in order to assure that national service and volunteer service entities within a state are aware of each other and are coordinating activities to maximize their ability to leverage both human and financial resources in order to address significant unmet community needs. Comments must be submitted by **January 24, 2006**, and can be submitted in four ways: by mail, hand delivery, fax or electronically to aborgstrom@cns.gov. For more information, call 202/606-6930 or e-mail to aborgstrom@cns.gov.

Corporation Requests Comments Regarding RSVP Volunteer Survey

See the Federal Register dated **November 25** (Vol. 70, No. 226). Go to "Corporation for National and Community Service" and see "Notices [05-23246]." This notice from the Corporation for National and Community Service solicits public comments concerning changes to an existing information collection activity, the RSVP Volunteer Survey, which is a component of the Performance Surveys of its three Senior Corps programs: the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), the Senior Companion Program (SCP) and the Retired Senior Volunteer program (RSVP). Comments must be submitted by **January 24, 2006**, and can be submitted in four ways: by mail, hand delivery, fax or electronically to ndietz@cns.gov. For more information, call 202/606-6633 or e-mail to ndietz@cns.gov.

Corporation Requests Comments Regarding Station Supervisor Survey

See the Federal Register dated **November 25** (Vol. 70, No. 226). Go to "Corporation for National and Community Service" and see "Notices [05-23247]." This notice from the Corporation for National and Community Service solicits public comments concerning changes to an existing information collection activity, the RSVP Station Supervisor Survey, which is a component of the Performance Surveys for its three Senior Corps programs: the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), the Senior Companion Program (SCP) and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Comments must be submitted by **January 24, 2006**, and can be submitted in four ways: by mail, hand delivery, fax or electronically to ndietz@cns.gov. For more information, call 202/606-6633 or e-mail to ndietz@cns.gov.

HUD Announces Funding Awards for Michigan

See the Federal Register dated **November 29** (Vol. 70, No. 228). Go to "Housing and Urban Development Department" and see "Notices, Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards." This notice from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) notifies the public of non-competitive funding awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 to Housing Agencies (HAs) in Michigan under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The purpose of this rental assistance program is to assist eligible families to pay the rent for decent, safe and sanitary housing. The following housing commissions in the following Michigan communities received HUD grant awards for FY 2005: Benton Harbor (for a Hope VI Vouchers grant); Battle Creek, Eastpointe, Ferndale, Inkster, Livonia, Plymouth, Pontiac and Westland (for Housing Tenant Protection grants); and Battle Creek, Eastpointe, Ferndale and Westland (for Mod Rehab Replacements and Fees). In addition, the Michigan State Housing Development Administration (MSHDA) received grants for Housing Tenant Protection and Mod Rehab Replacements and Fees. For more information, call 202/708-2815.

FCC Proposes Rulemaking for Captioned Telephone Relay Service

See the Federal Register dated **November 30** (Vol. 70, No. 229). Go to “Federal Communications Commission” and see “Notices, Common Carrier Services.” This notice from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeks public comment by **December 30** on a petition for rulemaking to mandate captioned telephone relay service, and to approve Internet-Protocol (IP) captioned telephone relay service. Captioned telephone service is a form of telecommunications relay service (TRS) that permits persons, on the same device, to simultaneously listen to what the other party is saying, and read captions of what the other party is saying. Presently this service is available for compensation from the Interstate TRS Fund, but is not mandatory. The petition asks the FCC to initiate a rulemaking for the purpose of making captioned telephone service a mandatory form of TRS, and approving IP captioned telephone service as eligible for compensation from the TRS Fund. To submit comments, go to www.regulations.gov or www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/. For more information, call 202/418-2247 or e-mail to dana.jackson@fcc.gov.

HHS Holds Meetings to Quantify Economic Impact of Federal Health Regulations

See the Federal Register dated **December 2** (Vol. 70, No. 231). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Notices, Meetings.” This notice from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the dates of four Town Hall Meetings to solicit public comment on quantifying the economic impact of major federal regulations governing the health care industry. The meetings are providing a forum for interested parties to make oral presentations at the meetings or to submit written comments after the meetings. Comments are requested to provide an estimate of the economic impact of federal health care regulations, guidance documents, or paperwork requirements, and also to describe the methods used to calculate the economic impact of the regulations. Two of the four Town Hall Meetings were held November 3 in Washington, DC and December 8 in Chicago, IL. The last two meetings will be held **January 12** in **Oklahoma, OK** and **February 2** in **San Francisco**. For more information, call 202/690-6443 or go to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/arrb/index.shtml>.

Corporation Requests Comments Regarding Station Supervisor Survey

See the Federal Register dated **December 6** (Vol. 70, No. 233). Go to “Corporation for National and Community Service” and see “Notices [E5-6884].” This notice from the Corporation for National and Community Service solicits public comments that must be submitted within 30 days (or by **January 5, 2005**) regarding the “Volunteer Service Hour Tracking Tool” which the Corporation has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This tool is an electronic Record of Service that provides the general public with a way to track their service activities and individually record their volunteer service hours. A copy of the tool, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation (202/606-6708). Comments can be submitted in two ways: by fax (202/395-6974) or by e-mail to ([Katherine T. Astrich@eop.gov](mailto:Katherine.T.Astrich@eop.gov)).

AoA Requests Comments Regarding Ombudsman Reporting System

See the Federal Register dated **December 22** (Vol. 70, No. 245). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA)

solicits comments on the proposed collection of certain information relating to the State Annual Long-term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Report and instructions for Title VII of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA requires states to provide information on ombudsman activities to AoA. The AoA uses the National Ombudsman Reporting System (NORS) to collect this information. This is the fourth request to extend, with proposed modifications, use of the existing State Annual LTC Ombudsman Report (and instructions) from OAA Title VII grantees. Written or electronic comments must be submitted by **February 21, 2006**. For more information, call 202/357-3587 or e-mail to sue.wheaton@aoa.gov.

RUS Announces Telemedicine Grant Awards for Michigan

See the Federal Register dated **December 22** (Vol. 70, No. 245). Go to “Rural Utilities Service” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces the recipients selected to receive Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 grant awards under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program. Of the 79 grant recipients, four are from Michigan: Alpena General Hospital in Alpena, Berrien County Intermediate School District in Berrien Springs, Borgess Health Alliance in Kalamazoo, and Trinity Health Michigan in Grayling. For more information, go to www.usda.gov/rus/telecom or call 202/720-0413.

CMS Issues Final Rule for Home Health Agency Participation in Medicare

See the Federal Register dated **December 23** (Vol. 70, No. 246). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Rules, Medicare: Home health agencies.” This final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **June 21, 2006**, requires electronic reporting of data from the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) as a condition for participation in the Medicare program for home health agencies (HHAs). To implement a prospective payment system for HHAs, as required by the Balanced Budget Act, it was necessary for CMS to develop the OASIS. It is an assessment instrument to measure patient health care outcomes in HHAs, and also a vehicle through which information is collected and used. To participate in the Medicare program, HHAs are now able to complete a comprehensive assessment for each patient, and to incorporate OASIS into their current patient assessment process. For more information, call 410/786-1428 or 410/786-8135.

CMS Provides Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances

See the Federal Register dated **December 23** (Vol. 70, No. 246). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Notices, Medicaid and Medicare.” This notice from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides a quarterly listing of Medicare and Medicaid program issuances. It contains manual instructions, substantive and interpretive regulations, and other Federal Register notices that were published July through September, 2005 relating to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including information on national coverage determinations (NCDs) affecting specific medical and health care services under Medicare, and listings of all approval numbers from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for collections. For more information, call 410/786-6954.

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, e-mail comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at osadirector@michigan.gov, or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

New House Bills

(November 21-December 23)

House Bill (HB) 5448 (2005)

See the "Bills that have Moved" section (below).

House Bill (HB) 5466 (2005)

Health; pharmaceuticals; dispensing of a lower cost generically equivalent drug product; require unless provided otherwise by prescriber. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Frank Accavitti** (D-Eastpointe). Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 12-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5472 (2005)

Retirement; legislative; legislative retirement system; revise age requirement to draw benefits, vesting schedule, and effective date. Amends Public Act (PA) 261 of 1957. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by 17 others. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 12-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5478 (2005)

Income tax; credit; tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Frank Accavitti** (D-Eastpointe) and co-sponsored by 27 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 12-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5487 (2005)

See the "Bills that have Moved" section (below).

House Bill (HB) 5493 (2005)

Occupations; nurses; nurse licensure compact; create. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. John Stakoe** (R-Highland) and co-sponsored by 40 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 12-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5520 (2005)

Income tax; credit; credit for donated medical services by a physician or dentist; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 14 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 12-14-05.

House Bill (HB) 5524 (2005)

Probate; other; living wills; provide for, and require compliance with. Amends Public Act (PA) 386 of 1998. Sponsored by **Rep. Alexander C. Lipsey** (D-Kalamazoo) and co-sponsored by 11 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 12-14-05.

House Bill (HB) 5527 (2005)

Torts; product liability; FDA approval defense for drug products; provide for rebuttable presumption rather than absolute defense and provide grace period for bringing certain actions previously barred by the defense. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Edward Gaffney** (R-Grosse Pointe Farms) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on House Oversight, Elections, and Ethics 12-14-05.

New Senate Bills

(November 21-December 22)

Senate Bill (SB) 920 (2005)

State agencies (existing); generally; toll-free number; establish for state departments and agencies. Amends Public Act (PA) 431 of 1984. Sponsored by **Sen. Jason Allen** (R-Traverse City) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor 12-1-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 921 (2005)

State agencies (existing); generally; postmark date; allow as indication of timely submission for request. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Sen. Jason Allen** (R-Traverse City) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor 12-1-05.

Bills that have Moved

(Since September 1)

See Changes (since November 7) to **House Bill (HB) 4074, House Bill (HB) 4337, House Bill (HB) 4670, House Bill (HB) 5166, House Bill (HB) 5167, House Bill (HB) 5168, House Bill (HB) 5198, House Bill (HB) 5375, House Bill (HB) 5448, House Bill (HB) 5487, Senate Bill (SB) 529, Senate Bill (SB) 530, Senate Bill (SB) 621 and Senate Bill (SB) 622.**

House Bill (HB) 4074 (2005)

This bill, with HB 5314, would remove community college employees hired after January 1, 2006 from the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, and would revise the definition of "eligible employees" to include administrators or faculty employed at a community college on a part-time basis. Amends Public Act (PA) 156 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Higher Education 1-27-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 3-18-05 and 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-8-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Education 12-13-05.

House Bill (HB) 4337 (2005)

Income tax; exemptions; caring for senior citizen in home; provide for additional exemption. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-17-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-1-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4606 (2005)

The bill would amend the Public Health Code. Currently the code prohibits a health care facility (i.e., a hospital or nursing home) from giving a copy of a patient's or resident's medical record to a third party without prior authorization from the patient or resident. The bill would retain this restriction on the release of a person's medical information except as otherwise permitted or required under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). The Public Health Code also allows a patient or resident to refuse the release of personal and medical records to a person outside the health facility or agency except as required because of a transfer to another health care facility or as required by law or third party payment contract. The bill would allow the release of these records as permitted or required under HIPPA. Furthermore, the Public Health Code entitles a patient or resident to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of his or her own medical record. The bill would specify that this would be done in accordance with the Medical Records Access Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 10-17-05 and 10-24-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-25-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-26-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

House Bill (HB) 4670 (2005)

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to create a special volunteer license for retired MDs and DOs who wish to provide medical care for the indigent and needy, or in medically underserved areas of the state on a volunteer basis. Under the bill, a physician would be considered retired from practice if he or she had intended to stop engaging in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery for remuneration when the license expired. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others. Referred to the House Committee on House Policy 4-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 5-23-05. House Substitute Bill adopted 11-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-30-05.

House Bill (HB) 4751 (2005)

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act, which deals with the Medicaid program, to allow Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive services related to care (e.g., assisted living) provided in an adult foster care facility licensed under the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act if certain conditions are met. The Michigan Department of Community Services (DCH) would be required to seek a waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide adult foster care-related services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Family and Children Services 5-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis

10-17-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05.
Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4773 (2005)

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 4789 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of “dining assistants” by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse’s assessment of the resident and that resident’s most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4792 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Community Health (DCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 10 business days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the survey report, or within 24 hours after receiving notice that the department has approved a nursing home’s plan of correction, the nursing home would have to post the report in a conspicuous place in the home for public review. Within 30 days after the report or correction plan is posted, the nursing home would have to notify its residents it had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and that a summary was available through the Internet or on the DCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident’s family, or a designated representative. If the survey report or plan of correction includes an immediate jeopardy citation, the nursing home would be required to include a description of the citation and a description of how the situation was corrected. If the department issues a notice of an immediate jeopardy situation to a nursing home, then the nursing home would be required to post the notice, with the nursing home’s plan to rectify the situation, immediately after the removal of the immediate jeopardy situation. The notice would have to be placed in a conspicuous place for public view in the nursing home for not less than seven days. If the immediate jeopardy situation results in serious injury, or a change in the health status of a resident or residents within the nursing home, the home would be required to immediately notify the resident’s family, or a designated representative, of the immediate jeopardy situation. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others.

Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4811 (2005)

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5071 (2005)

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by **Rep. Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5081 (2005)

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a "paper mark." Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5139 (2005)

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. It is tie barred to HB 4773 which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5166 (2005)

This bill would amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to require background checks on new employees of adult foster care facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 57 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5167 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to apply background check requirements to applicants for initial licensure or registration in health occupations. The bill would impose a nominal fee, beginning January 1, 2006, not to exceed \$2 for the processing of criminal history background checks for applicants for initial licensure or registration and renewals, and the applicants would be responsible for any charges for the criminal history check. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Michael Murphy** (D- Lansing) and co-sponsored by 43 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency(HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5168 (2005)

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to require background checks on new employees of a health facility or agency (a nursing home, county medical facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged, or home health agency). Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5448, SB 621 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 50 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency(HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted and amended 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5183 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who provides direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse policy, or a copy of that policy if the facility requires employees to submit to substance screening or abuse testing, whether random or otherwise, as a condition of employment. The notice would be provided upon hiring. If a notice of the policy is provided in lieu of a copy, the notice will contain the following: (a) Circumstances under which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Procedures for challenging the accuracy of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Analysis (HFA) 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5198 (2005)

This bill would amend Public Act 259 of 1909, which pertains to judgments of divorce and judgments of separate maintenance, to clarify that each judgment of divorce or judgment of separation would have to determine all rights, including any contingent rights of the parties regarding any vested pension, annuity, or retirement benefit; any accumulated contributions in any pension, annuity, or retirement system; and, in accordance with the revised Statutes of 1846, any unvested pension, annuity or retirement benefits. Sponsored by **Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton) and co-sponsored by 58 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 9-21-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 12-5-05 and 12-12-05. Substitute bill

adopted by the House 12-13-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-13-05.

House Bill (HB) 5325 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a hospital, during flu season, to inform each elderly person admitted to the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more that the influenza vaccine is available. This would apply unless a flu vaccine shortage has been declared, causing a hospital to have an inadequate supply in stock. If an elderly person requests to be vaccinated, and a physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner determines that the vaccine is in the patient's best interest, the hospital would have to administer the vaccination to the elderly person before he or she is discharged, and document the vaccination in the patient's medical record. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-18-02. Referred with recommendation without amendment(s) 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5375 (2005)

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to specify that a physician who provides medical care under a special volunteer license, granted under provisions of House Bill 4670, would not be liable in a civil action for personal injury or death that was proximately caused by the professional negligence or malpractice of the physician in providing the care. Civil immunity would only apply if the care was provided at a health facility or agency that provided at least 75 percent of its care annually to medically indigent individuals, and the physician did not receive, and did not intend to receive, compensation for providing the care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 10-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-07-05 and 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 11-30-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 12-6-05 and 12-7-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 12-7-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 12-16-05.

House Bill (HB) 5448 (2005)

This bill would amend the mental health code to require background checks on new employees of psychiatric facilities or immediate care facilities for people with mental retardation. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, SB 621 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 47 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-29-05. Re-assigned to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5487 (2005)

Property tax; exemptions; tax exemption for certain nonprofit housing corporations and nonprofit corporations with a license to solicit charitable donations; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy 12-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-13-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the House with immediate effect 12-13-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 267 (2005)

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report 9-20-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05. For final disposition of budget, see House Bill (HB) 4831, now Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 (2005)

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 529 (2005)

This bill, with SB 530, would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. Amends Public Act 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park). Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 12-7-05. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 12-8-05. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 12-8-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 12-12-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-14-05. Ordered enrolled out of Session 12-29-05. Presented to the Governor 12-29-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 530 (2005)

This bill, with SB 529, would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax

abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. Amends Public Act (PA) 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit). Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 12-7-05. Senate substitute bill, as amended, concurred in 12-8-05. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 12-8-05. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 12-8-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 12-12-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-14-05. Ordered enrolled out of Session 12-29-05. Presented to the Governor 12-29-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 621 (2005)

This bill would amend provisions of the Public Health Code to repeal and replace provisions that disqualify a person from employment with a nursing home for certain convictions, and require criminal history checks of applicants for employment. It would expand the crimes covered by the law, include drug misdemeanors; expand the types of facilities that must conduct background checks; require annual background checks; and increase sanctions. It would apply to nursing homes, county medical care facilities, hospices, hospitals that provide swing bed services, homes for the aged, and home health agencies. It would prohibit individuals who would have direct access or provide direct services to patients or residents in those facilities or agencies from working, contracting, or being granted clinical privileges with the facilities or agencies, if they were convicted of or subject to any of the following: a felony within 15 years immediately preceding the date of application; a misdemeanor involving controlled substances, abuse, neglect, assault, battery, criminal sexual conduct or a state or federal crime that was substantially similar within 10 years immediately preceding the date of application; a relevant crime under provisions of federal law that excludes certain individuals and entities from participation in Medicare and state health care programs; an order or disposition under sections of the Mental Health Code, Estates and Protected Individuals Code, and the Code of Criminal Procedure; or a substantiated finding of neglect, abuse, or misappropriation of property by a state or federal agency pursuant to an investigation conducted in accordance with federal law. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Patricia L. Birkholz** (R-Saugatuck) and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 6-21-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 11-29-05 and 12-7-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 12-13-05. Amendments adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the Senate 12-13-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-13-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 622 (2005)

This bill would amend provisions of the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to repeal and replace provisions that disqualify a person from employment for certain convictions and that require criminal history checks of applicants for employment. The bill includes proposals pertaining to employment in an adult foster care facility that are consistent with those proposed in Senate Bill (SB) 621 regarding employment in a nursing home, county medical care facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged, or home health agency. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 621 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland)

and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 6-21-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 11-29-05 and 12-7-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 12-13-05. Amendments adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the Senate 12-13-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-13-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 712 (2005)

This bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to allow recreational card playing at nonresidential senior centers. Currently Chapter 44 of the code, which regulates gambling, does not apply to card playing at senior citizen housing facilities. The bill would extend that exemption to senior centers that are not housing facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 8-31-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 10-19-05 and 11-1-05. Substitute Bill concurred in by the Senate 11-1-05. Passed by the Senate 11-3-05. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 11-3-05.

2005 Public Acts

House Bill (HB) 4188 (2005), Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4434 (2005), Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, this bill was tie-barred with SB 352 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2005), Public Act (PA) 73 (2005)

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred with HB 4434 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4405 (2005), Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep.**

Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4436 (2005), Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 348 (2005), Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 271 (2005), Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4831 (2005), Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4996 (2005), Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for "dentally underserved" patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was

approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.

House Bill (HB) 5055 (2005), Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State, and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

AAA 3-B to Hire Chief Financial Officer

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 3-B, located in **Battle Creek** has posted a job opening for Chief Financial Officer. The AAA serves Barry and Calhoun Counties. The deadline for submitting applications is **January 13, 2006.**

Job responsibilities will include those of a large nonprofit organization: managing and supporting all budgeting, accounting, cost allocations, analysis and forecasting, as well as supervision of staff within those areas. Applicants should have experience in managing non-profit, multi-fund accounting systems, and ability to provide oversight of information systems. Persons should hold a Bachelors degree (accounting or finance) with preference given to CPA or advanced certification. Salary range is \$57,000 to 67,000.

Mail a resume and cover letter to Burnham Brook, 200 W. Michigan Avenue in Battle Creek, 49017 or send by e-mail to bheldt@burnhambrook.com .

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help us spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested. If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to writer/editor **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include name, e-mail address, organization/agency and telephone number. Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to dekkerd@michigan.gov or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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